

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7488

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: SPECULATION OF ADVISOR TO PRINCE REGARDING NEXT PRIME  
MINISTER

1. SPANISH INDUSTRIALIST, KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY AS A FRIEND AND ADVISOR TO PRINCE JUAN CARLOS, TODAY DISCUSSED WITH EMBOFF THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS FACING THE PRINCE, PARTICULARLY THE ISSUE OF WHO TO NAME AS PRIME MINISTER. HE NAMED, IN THE ORDER OF PROBABILITY AS HE SAW IT: (A) ONE-TIME NATIONAL MOVEMENT MINISTER AND LATER VICE PRESIDENT UNDER 1969-73 TECHNOCRAT GOVT, TORCUATO FERNANDEZ MIRANDA; (B) A CONTINUATION IN OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER ARIAS; (C) CURRENT "CORTES" PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ DE VALCARCEL; AND (D) ONE-TIME INFORMATION MINISTER AND CURRENT SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO LONDON FRAGA IRIBARNE.

2. SOURCE HINTED THE PRINCE MIGHT FAVOR FERNANDEZ MIRANDA, WHO HAS ALWAYS BEEN A CLOSE ADVISOR TO THE PRINCE AND WAS HIS TUTOR DURING THE PRINCE'S UNIVERSITY DAYS, AS PRIME MINISTER. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT HE BELIEVED FERNANDEZ MIRANDA, IF CHOSEN,

WOULD CERTAINLY PURSUE AN APERTURISTA POLICY LEADING TOWARDS DEMOCRATIZATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH WISHES OF PRINCE. HE WAS CONVINCED OF THIS, EVEN THOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT FERNANDEZ MIRANDA LEFT GOVT IN 1973 HAVING ACQUIRED A STAT-PAT REPUTATION AS HAVING ALIGNED HIMSELF TOO CLOSELY WITH THEN PRESIDENT  
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CARRERO BLANCO. HE ADDED THAT FERNANDEZ MIRANDA WOULD, IF

DESIGNATED PRIME MINISTER, BE MORE LIBERAL THAN WHEN HE FIRST CAME INTO THE CABINET IN 1969, AT WHICH TIME HE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST PROPONENTS OF POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONISM AND WAS THEN CONSIDERED AN APERTURISTA.

3. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE CONTINUATION OF ARIAS IN OFFICE REMAINED A POSSIBILITY. HE FELT THAT IF THE PRINCE DECIDED TO KEEP ARIAS ON IT WOULD NOT BE FOR THE FULL THREE YEARS REMAINING ON HIS FIVE YEAR TERM BUT ONLY FOR A BRIEF PERIOD OF PERHAPS SOME MONTHS UNTIL THE PRINCE GOT HIS FEET FIRMLY ON THE GROUND. IN THIS EVENT, THE PRINCE AND ARIAS WOULD WORK OUT IN ADVANCE HOW LONG ARIAS WOULD REMAIN.

4. OUR SOURCE SAID CURRENT CORTES PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ DE VALCARCEL WAS ANOTHER NAME BEING CONSIDERED BUT HE BELIEVED PRINCE WOULD NOT NAME HIM TO THE POST BECAUSE RODRIGUEZ DE VALCARCEL, AS AN OLD FALANGIST AND A MAN IDENTIFIED WITH THE REGIME'S RIGHT WING, WOULD MERELY REPRESENT IN THE PUBLIC IMAGE A POLICY "CONTINUISMO" OR FRANQUISMO AFTER FRANCO, SOMETHING WHICH THE PRINCE DEFINITELY DOES NOT WANT. WHILE FRAGA WAS ALSO CERTAINLY BEING CONSIDERED, HE FELT THAT FRAGA WOULD NOT BE CHOSEN BECAUSE FRAGA WAS TOO CONTROVERSIAL, TOO TEMPERAMENTAL, AND HAS TOO MANY ENEMIES.

5. EMBOFF MENTIONED THAT EMBASSY HAD HEARD RUMORS THERE MIGHT BE A POSSIBILITY OF PRINCE NAMING A MODERATE MILITARY MAN AS PRIME MINISTER, WITH A VIEW TO ENFORCING PRINCE'S AUTHORITY DURING DIFFICULT EARLY TRANSITION PERIOD. SOURCE SAID THESE RUMORS HAD ALSO REACHED THE PRINCE AND THAT THEY HAD EVEN HEARD THE NAME OF THE CURRENT COMMANDING GENERAL OF CEUTA AND CHIEF MILITARY NEGOTIATOR ON THE U.S. BASE NEGOTIATIONS, MAJOR GENERAL GUTIERREZ MELLADOX IN THIS REGARD. HE FELT, HOWEVER, THERE WAS VERY LITTLE CHANCE THAT THE PRINCE WOULD NAME A MILITARY MAN, AS THE PRINCE WAS VERY MINDFUL OF THE IMAGE THE NEW REGIME WOULD HAVE TO HAVE IN WESTERN EUROPE AND THAT ANY DESIGNATION OF A MILITARY MAN WOULD DAMAGE THE PRINCE'S IMAGE ABROAD.

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6. FOR THE RECORD, ASIDE FROM THE COUNT OF MOTRICO, THE RIGHT WING CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC SILVA MUNOZ, AND LOPEZ RODO (A FORMER MINISTER OF OPUS DEI PERSUASION) HAVE ALSO BEEN RUMORED ALONG WITH MILITARY FIGURES DIEZ-ALEGRIA AND PITA DA VEIGA. THE PROCESS OF CHOOSING A PRIME MINISTER - OR RETAINING ARIA - IS TROUBLESOME. THERE IS NOT OBVIOUS CHOICE; ALL HAVE DISABILITIES OF ONE SORT OR ANOTHER. STABLER

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